



Ornate Box Turtle Watch Observation Form

Please fill out one form for each observation

The ornate box turtle is a land turtle native to southeastern Arizona's desert grasslands. It can be distinguished from the desert tortoise, which also has a domed shell, by the yellow radiating lines it has on its carapace (top part of shell), and the hinged plastron (underside of shell) which allows it to close its shell completely.

OBSERVER INFORMATION:

Name _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email address _____

OBSERVATION INFORMATION:

Date _____ Time _____

GPS location: Easting / Latitude _____ Datum (circle one): NAD 27 NAD 83/WGS84
Northing / Longitude _____

Was it found on: paved road unpaved road on trail none of these

Detailed location (i.e., specific nature preserve, highway and mile marker, etc.) _____

Nearest cross streets and town _____

Habitat where turtle was found (circle one):

disturbed grassland native grassland desert scrub agricultural land oak woodland
other (describe) _____

Residential area? Y / N

Ranching present? Y / N

Notes _____

Temperature: _____ °F / °C **Sky (circle one):** No or few clouds / Mostly cloudy / Currently raining

Rain in the previous 24 hrs? Y / N

TURTLE INFORMATION:

Status: Dead / Alive

Behavior: walking / not moving / eating **Activity:** In open / hiding

Sex:* M / F / unknown

**Male box turtles have red eyes, orange scales on the forelimbs, and a long tail; females have brownish-yellow eyes, yellow scales on the forelimbs, and a short tail.*

Determining sex does not allow you to handle the turtle.

Photos taken? Y / N (please send any photos in with your form, or e-mail them to aowens@azgfd.gov)

Due to perceived population declines, the ornate box turtle is a protected species in Arizona, meaning that it is **illegal to collect, handle, or relocate the species**. Participating in the Ornate Box Turtle Watch does not allow you to handle box turtles.

By participating in the Ornate Box Turtle Watch, you will be directly helping the Arizona Game and Fish Department to determine the current distribution of box turtles which will guide our conservation efforts. For more information on box turtles and Arizona's other turtle species, please visit www.azgfd.gov/turtle. Thank you for your participation.

Please return form and any photos to:

Nongame Branch
Turtles Project
Arizona Game and Fish Department
5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086

If you have questions, contact:

Cristina Jones, Turtles Project Coordinator
cjones@azgfd.gov / 623-236-7767
Audrey Owens, Turtles Project Biologist
aowens@azgfd.gov / 623-236-7504